

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06857 311002Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 /102 W
-----019960 010100Z /64
R 310615Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3368

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 6857

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, IS
SUBJECT: ISRAEL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS:
JANUARY- APRIL 1978
REF: TEL AVIV 6102

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS PRELIMINARY
TOTALS FOR JANUARY-APRIL IMPORTS AND THE MERCHANDISE
TRADE BALANCE. NET IMPORTS ARE VALUED AT \$1,782.6 MILLION COMPARED TO

\$1,429.0 MILLION IN THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR. THE REVISED
EXPORT FIGURES SHOW THAT NET MERCHANDISE EXPORTS SO FAR THIS YEAR
HAVE REACHED A VALUE OF \$1,250.3 MILLION. THE MERCHANDISE TRADE
DEFICIT OF \$532 MILLION IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE DEFICIT
OF \$499 MILLION RECORDED IN JANUARY-APRIL 1977.

2. POLISHED DIAMOND EXPORTS IN APRIL EARNED \$97.5 MILLION, WHILE
RAW DIAMOND IMPORTS WERE VALUED AT \$92.2 MILLION. THE ISRAELI STOCKS
OF DIAMONDS APPARENTLY REMAINED HIGH WITH NO SIGNIFICANT SELL-OFF
OF POLISHED DIAMONDS IN PARIL.

3. COMMENT: THE MERCHANDISE TRADE BALANCE HAS SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE
OVER THE LAST 2 YEARS, WITH AN AVERAGE MONTHLY TRADE DEFICIT OF
BETWEEN \$140-145 MILLION. THE GOI EXPECTS, AS WE DO, THAT THE MAJOR
CHANGES IN THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WILL OCCUR IN THE SERVICES
ACCOUNT AND IN THE DIRECT DEFENSE IMPORT CATEGORY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 31 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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